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Docket No. 4791-4015

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants

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For

: FLUIDIZED BED METHOD AND PLANT FOR THE HEAT

TREATMENT OF SOLIDS CONTAINING TITANIUM

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to fee calculations and examination on the merits, entry of the following Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. More specifically, all of the claims, Claims 1-37 have been amended.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper. Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begin on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 9 of this paper.